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SITUATION REPORT NO. 40

SITUATION AS OF 1130 EDT, 04/14/94

Rwanda

• (U) Embassy Brussels has received word that UNAMIR APCs were dispatched and have safely evacuated the journalists from the Milles Collines hotel to the airport. Heavy fighting continues in Kigali. (TF/Embassy Brussels and N. Y. Times telcons)

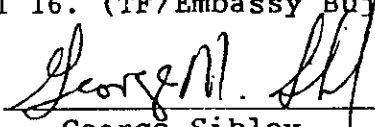
• (U) The Kigali airport has come under heavy mortar fire, and the runway, which has taken several shells, is reportedly closed. Doctors Without Borders in Rwanda have said that 150,000 to 200,000 persons have fled Kigali; many are expected to seek refuge in Burundi, Tanzania, Zaire, and Uganda. UNAMIR is attempting to get government forces to move back from the airport and to persuade the RPF to cease firing at government positions near the airport. (AP/FBIS)

• (C) Belgian FM Claes announced today that the GOB will withdraw its contingent from UNAMIR once the evacuation of Belgian nationals from Rwanda is concluded, regardless of the UNSC decision on UNAMIR. The GOB advocates an immediate suspension of UNAMIR rather than a termination, (the so-called "Angola model"). Belgium has asked us to make a strong statement in support of the GOB position. (TF/Embassy Brussels, Belgian Embassy Telcons)

Burundi

• (U) The RSO has toured Bujumbura by car and reports that the city is calm. A police contact reports that the countryside is also quiet. The National Crisis Committee is meeting to discuss the issue of refugees, and to make arrangements for President Ntaryamira's funeral, tentatively scheduled for April 16. (TF/Embassy Bujumbura)


Arlene Render
Coordinator


George Sibley
Senior Watch Officer

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